

A1
feeder inlet, since it is the location at which coal enters the feeder. It will be appreciated that the coal drops onto a belt 18 which is supported on pulleys 20 and 22. Pulley 20 is driven by a belt drive motor 24 which provides motive power through a drive reducer 26, as seen in FIGS. 2 and 3.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

A2
A material feeder is provided which has a movable plate disposed above the conveyor belt. The movable plate can be positioned vertically to entirely block the flow of material, or can be moved at an angle from vertical relative to the conveyor direction. In the angled position, the blade provides a resistant force against the material so that the material does not freely flow across the belt at a rate greater than the belt speed. A power cylinder is provided to actuate blade. The feeder is particularly suitable for feeding coal from a downcomer to a further coal processing apparatus such as a pulverizer.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 11, and 16 as follows:

- A3
1. (Amended) A device for feeding particulate material, comprising:
a conveyor belt that conveys the material in a forward longitudinal direction;
a material inlet located above at least a first portion of the conveyor belt; and
a movable plate located above at least a second portion of the conveyor belt, the plate pivotally mounted by a hinge and movable to at least one position where the plate is at an angle to the forward longitudinal direction and the angle is greater than 0 and less than 90